



MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED IN CONNECTION WITH
ARMED ROBBERIES AND SIMILAR CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono, the Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Division Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives William J. Hoover, Exeter Police Chief Richard Kane, Candia Police Chief Michael McGillen, Fremont Police Chief Neal Janvrin, and Epping Police Chief Gregory Dodge, announce that **BRANDON L. BILODEAU**, age 28, of Manchester, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire, to 327 months (27 years and 3 months) in federal prison in connection with a series of armed robberies in several towns along Route 101, during the month of February 2004.

United States District Judge Paul Barbadoro imposed the sentence following **BILODEAU'S** pleas of guilty in February to being a felon in possession of a firearm on February 25, 2004, and to using a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence (robbery). On February 25, 2004, Exeter Police located a Jennings .22 caliber handgun in **BILODEAU'S** vehicle, which the handgun had been stolen in a daytime burglary of a residence in Fremont, New Hampshire, on February 19, 2004. Because of **BILODEAU'S** criminal history, under federal law he qualifies as an Armed Career Criminal and was subject to a 15 year minimum mandatory sentence in federal prison. The Judge imposed a sentence of 243 months on that charge.

In addition to the felon in possession charge, **BILODEAU** also pleaded guilty to using the Jennings handgun in an armed robbery of the West Epping Village Market in the evening of February 19, 2004, the same day the handgun was stolen. **BILODEAU** admitted to brandishing the firearm during the crime of violence, which under federal law subjects him to a 7 year minimum mandatory sentence, which Judge Barbadoro imposed consecutive to the 243-month sentence.

In commenting on Mr. Bilodeau's sentencing, U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case is another strong example of the value and success of the Justice Department's gun violence reduction program, Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). PSN is designed to coordinate federal,

state and local law enforcement and community resources to address gun violence. One aspect of the program is the aggressive enforcement of existing firearms laws. In this case, the defendant faces 22 years in federal prison based on his illegal possession and use of stolen firearm.” He went on to say, “The case is also a model example of the coordinated efforts of federal and local law enforcement. Multiple agencies were involved in the investigation of several burglaries and armed robberies in four different towns, all of which pulled together, with the assistance of federal agencies, to solve the cases and bring this defendant to justice.”

In a related case, Shane Keith **MACLEOD** faces trial on January 6, 2006, for his role in the armed robberies and weapons possession. **MACLEOD** was recently indicted on 5 counts of armed robbery for his participation in the armed robberies of the West Epping Village Market in Epping, the Xtra Mart in Exeter, High Street Grocery in Exeter, Fecteau’s Country Store in Epping, and DC Mobil in Candia. He is also charged with aiding and abetting the use of a firearm in connection with the West Epping Village Market and DC Mobil robberies. In addition, he is charged with being a felon in possession of a stolen .30-06 Savage rifle, which was stolen during a burglary from a residence in Candia on or about February 25, 2006. If convicted on all counts, **MACLEOD** faces at least 47 years in federal prison.

An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all cases, each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.

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